

Friis, John

From: furforest@gmail.com on behalf of Jessica Stephen [gessokuh@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2009 12:03 AM
To: Friis, John
Subject: HB6666, Section 5

I am writing to strongly advocate for Sec.5 of House Bill H6666, which will allow for adjunct faculty certificates to be issued to the highly trained professional artists who serve as the part time faculty of The Educational Center for the Arts (ECA) in New Haven CT to continue their 35-year record of preparing Connecticut's high-school students for our competitive global economy. If they are required to become certified for 10-hour per week part-time positions, they will not be able to do so and the school will close. This will be a terrible loss to Connecticut's high school students in 19 school districts.

I graduated from ECA in 2001 after 4 full years of visual arts education from talented teachers who are also practicing artists. In large part as a result of my portfolio, guided by the instructors at ECA, the coursework I had completed at ECA, and the confidence, creativity, and technique I had honed as a direct result of ECA, I was accepted into the Studio Art program at New York University. The teachers/artists at ECA prepared me for the challenging classes in college and laid the groundwork for my ability to excel in studio style classes as well as my ability to succeed artistically in the larger world. Since graduating from NYU, I have continued to pursue my own artwork (sculpture and painting) and work as a landscape designer, where my design and rendering skills, and my creative thinking, are highly valued. I have ECA to thank, and the teachers that made it the home it was, for giving me a springboard for a creative education and a creative life in the real world.

Please don't pass legislation that will ruin this opportunity that has been, and continues to be, so vital to students like myself.

Thank you.
Sincerely,

Jessica A. Stephen
ECA Class of 2001